

Campus cheating poll

by Amber Close
Staff Writer

Is it easy to cheat at Elon? Out of 30 students polled on campus 23 students said "yes." The remaining 7 students thought that though it wasn't impossible, it wasn't easy either.

Even though Elon is a fairly small college, most students think cheating is easy. Getting caught at it is the hard part.

Most colleges are strict about cheating. Elon is no exception. Cheating is defined in the student handbook as "the intentional misrepresentation of one's work to deceive for personal gain when, in fact, said work is not that person's."

Also included in this definition is "Copying another's exclusive work or unauthorized use of notes; plagiarism and unauthorized collaboration on joint projects."

When a teacher catches a student cheating, he/she has two options: to either handle the situation themselves, as they see fit, or to file an incident report. If the latter is implemented, the student will attend either an administrative hearing or go in front of the Elon Hearing Board. Either way the student gets to tell his side of the story first.

If found guilty, the penalties range from mild to severe depending on the case. According to the student handbook a first offender "normally receives not less than Disciplinary Probation for one

academic year and no more than Disciplinary Suspension for one academic year and a recommendation that the course grade be an "F". Second offenders can face a permanent separation from the college and a recommendation that the course grade be an "F".

In an anonymous poll of 50 students from various colleges and universities, 36 admitted to having cheated at least once in their college career.

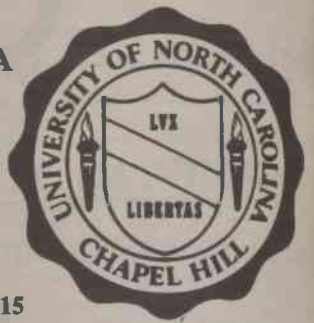
Vicky Picaretto, a senior at Vanderbilt University says, "Sometimes the situation makes it harder to not cheat." This could be the case in larger schools where there is a hundred or more students in a class.

In a student survey by "U," The National College Newspaper, 53 percent of people polled said there is a general attitude on campuses that cheating is OK as long as you don't get caught.

According to Assistant Dean of Academic affairs, Jana Lynn Patterson, "Many professors decide to handle it themselves although this year there have been more cases reported than last year. We want to educate professors on how to handle it on their own."

Patterson also said that Elon is thinking about proposing a plan to help cut down on the cheating in the future by developing a special program on academic integrity or a peer forum on what constitutes plagiarism. Students will be encouraged to participate.

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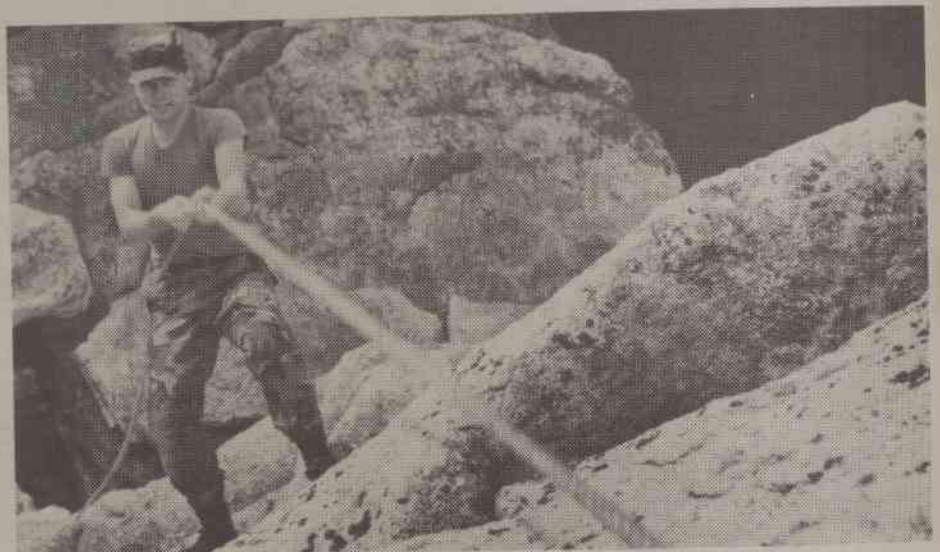
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